

June 30, 1988

TO: Minerals File

FROM: H. Shepherd/Reclamation Soils Specialist *HWS*

RE: Site Visit, Probe Mine, Four Corners Mine, Snow Mine, Atlas Minerals, M/015/011, M/015/014, M/015/013, Emery County, Utah

On June 17, 1988 Frank Filas and I met with Joe Beirschied of B & W Construction Co., at the Atlas Minerals sites of the Probe Mine and four Corners Mine. The meeting was held to discuss the partial reclamation of these sites and the eventual aquisition of these sites by Mr. Beirschied. Atlas minerals is in the process of releasing all their uranium holdings in Utah.

Mr. Beirshcied is negotiating an agreement with Atlas where he will aquire the deeds for the Snow, Probe, and Four Corners properties after performing the reclamation work on these areas. Reclamation would entail reduction of the disturbed area to an acreage of less than 5 acres, for each site. Mr. Beirschied would then file Small Operator NOIs for these sites.

Atlas Minerals has an approved reclamation plan for each of these sites. Mr. Beirschied expressed some concern about the method of sealing the shafts and boreholes at these sites, as described in the plan. He indicated that he would like to change the procedure in the plan, and would amend the plan before the work was performed. Briefly, he does not agree with the method of backfilling these holes (shafts). Instead, he would prefer to plug these holes (shafts and boreholes) with large cement plugs which could be removed again at a later date if necessary. The plugs, he explained, could not be breached by the general public and would provide a more stable

Page 2
Minerals File
June 30, 1988

stable ground surface than a backfilled hole. My comment to this would be that, this is true, but stability would depend upon the engineering of the particular plug in respect to its design and placement in a geologic material. Large deep holes exposed later via erosion or ground settling would not be desirable, therefore there must be some guarantee that they will stay put for awhile.

I discussed the seed mix to be used with Mr. Beirschied at the three sites. I indicated to him that some changes should be made to the mixture. At the time we were looking at the 1977 Reclamation Plan. Apparently, (according to file correspondence), the seed mixture will change. A 1982 study performed by Morrison-Knudson for Atlas advises a seed mix change. Whether Atlas has adopted this change is unclear. I will be calling Atlas this next week to clear up the question. I would concur with the M-K study, as to the seed mixture to be used.

Mr. Beirschied plans to start reclamation at these sites this fall.

jb
cc: L. Braxton
F. Filas